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ON THE LITERATURE OF AMERICA.

At the late Annual Meeting of the Harvard Alpha of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, which was an unusually full one, an oration was delivered by the Hon. George P. Marsh, of Vermont, for the following synopsis of which we are indebted to the Boston Daily Advertiser:

The Oration was of the highest character. Its general ob in a masterly manner, and the broad and clear positions of the speaker were stated in the most accurate and elegant language. Every sentence was an essay, and if any hearer did not enjoy the address, it was because he was not accustomed to having valuable truths presented to him in such rapid succession, so tessely and severely expressed. Such an address suffers particularly in an analysis, but we attempt a brief

culture of letters was not that of a separate class, but was generally either the task of youth or the recreation of declining age. In the lives of those who ever devoted themselves to letters, there were three marked epochs : the day when leaving college they sought for the true course in which to direct their future advance; the day when they left their professional studies to mingle with the busy world, and those days in which, after a business career, they came back to the Alma Mater to take a new lesson with regard to past and future. The orator was addressing men of all of these classes, and might address them all as disciples of a common cause-selfteaching pupils-who would give up the common themes of teaching pupils—who would give up the common themes of using the word "power." The axiom demands more than the progress of the age—whether in science or territory—the the ordinary signification of that word—more than the idea or

He then proceeded to give a rapid, but pointed, analysis of the nature and character of this knowledge, pointing out how much ground the student has now before him in languages; the general dynamic laws of creation, which give rise to our astronomy, chemistry, geology, and the general cosmogony, making worlds, as he well said, of "the Exuvin of Microscopic Ephemera;" the recorded history of hundreds of nations; the history of natural science; that of political and municipal law, or whatever under that name had been in successive periods the substitutes for physical force in keeping order in co munities—poetry, metaphysics, superstitions, and those really religious views which sixty centuries have furnished.

If the philosophers of Greece and Rome found life too short to attain all the accumulated information of their day, how could the scholar of our time collect the varied and increased stores; how could he appropriate to his own use the move-ments of the ever-increasing circles of the sea of learning; and how could he find leisure and heart, and where a teacher, for ject of the life of man ' To resolve this question many had set forth the word "system," and had advanced systems idea that new sciences are created by new subdivisions of facts and theories heretofore known is a popular error. It increases the number of studies without saving the labor of the student. In fact, since all science is truth, there can be no new science, except from a new arrangement of received material. To show the manner in which sciences might be nominally in-

adduced the science of philology.

From this view Mr. Marsh urged it was evident that the modity which might be quoted in prices current like trade," to the derogation of other business, and had adopted the principle of "large sales and small profits," so that that was the "better book" of which the most copies with some which ease would have gameted on the boundary of the who is whatever the value of its thoughts. There was a striking diflore of letters is the fountain of perpetual youth. He who is love of letters is the fountain of perpetual youth. He who is ference between literary and mechanical products in this re- ever learning is ever young. In ing equal, that which had cost the most labor in its manufac-ture was most valuable: the book which had been most carefully made was not judged by this test. Consequently literary labors were vulgarized under the name of popularization hough good motives and good results even here had justified se that they who watered the tree of knowledge should reap golden fruit.

orator then proceeded to consider what was the char acter of human knowledge, and the nature of its highest uses, pointing out that our most certain and absolute cogni fact was that of laws regarding matters without the immediate reach of our senses. Our astronomy is more cer tain than our meteorology; our history more accurate than our election returns. The astronomers who left England for the South Seas, to take observations of the transit of Venus, in 1769, went with perfect confidence that the celestial phenomena would occur within a few minutes of a predicted time; but they went in doubt and anxiety with regard to the time at which they should themselves arrive at their post, and While we calculate with absolute certainty the movements of the distant spheres of our universe, we are in doubt as to th movements under our own eyes, not only of spontaneous na-ture, but of the action of the human mind and the condition of public sentiment in other ages or in this. Although Cham-pollion has been able to reproduce for us the history of the Pharaohs, and Niebuhr, after the lapse of nineteen centuries, can contradict successfully the statements of Livy; while we can state with accuracy the position and movements of bodies space, and while, in our natural hiswhole animal from a single part, we are to ourselves the most mysterious of enigmas. among the subjects of which we know least. That which

to our means of direct apprehension.

From this view the crator inferred, and argued with eloquent illustrations, that the intellectual faculty was to be considered as higher and more worthy of cultivation than the sensual apprehensions. Nature never generalizes; all study of nature results in a series of instances, in variety, instead of uniformity. The true student must strive to rise above nature, and enunciate general laws. Absolute certainty of knowledge is impossible, except in the pure mathematics; approximate certainty can only be reached with regard to the lations of matter in which its substance is not involved-in chemistry and our knowledge of quiescent bodies. gard to moving bodies and forces—nomina aut phenomena— the pure law of their action is all that is knowable; that is the highest of human attainments. Theory is really suggested by phenomena not dependant upon it, and general laws are finally established by proofs aside from observation. If the sun does not rise as predicted; if Orion should be stayed in his courses, we should not doubt the law, but the chronometer.

Mr. Marsh proceeded to speak of the mistake of character-

izing certain sciences as practical, when all science is practi-cal. After a good education the student starts with results, the results of centuries of study; on the principle of "self-made" and "practical" men all start alike, with a small stock of common instincts and ideas. On the "practical" theory the teacher observes for the pupil, while on the other he teaches him to generalize; on that theory, knowledge can only be the result of accumulation, while on the latter it grows from development; and yet the former appeals to the vanity of men an abundance; and it is to be feared that his conduct in the by convincing them that they are constantly receiving infor-mation, while that which founds knowledge on general laws, repels many by proving their acquisitions nugatory and tempts

em by no promises of easy success.

Doubtless education begins with the acquisition of facts, bu it has more important duties and bearings. Much of what the student acquires from books is a mere nomenclature; much of descriptive learning is a barren catalogue of nen and dates. It is a mistake to suppose that mental acquisition implies mental colume. Facts may be gained and lost again, and in some instances leave the mind more inept than they found it. There are indeed minds which by a sort of perverse alchemy convert golden fruits to stubble, or repeat notes like a singing bird, without knowing their musical value, or serve for the conduits of information whose esoterical impor-

they could not comprehend.

It has been said of a celebrated lawyer that his learning had passed out of his memory into his judgment, meaning that al-though he had forgotten individual cases he remembered great at once."

principles. It is so of every educated man. A single fact may lead him into error. Who can calculate its relations with others in the vast range of human knowledge! It is one operated upon by a hundred forces, acting in different directions and with different intensities, subject to the action of time, which will so control them that before the philosopher them will remain. And for this reason those who have been educated by the experience of others are frequently "Laudatores temporis acti," while reformers forget that antiquity had

also its phantoms and illusions.

The impression obtains a hold sometimes that the great thinkers of different past generations were as conspicuous to the men of their own times as to us, as we look back upon them from ours. This impression is only the hasty thought which no study of past literature will confirm. Of the literati of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, those whom we most respect and venerate had no such measure of esteen The Oration was of the highest character. Its general object was to give a review of the extent and essence of existing knowledge. This very comprehensive subject was handled are as dead to us as is the literature of Carthage. What, are as dead to us as is the literature of Carthage. What, then, if our age be marked as an age in which there is poured out a deluge of worthless literature? That deluge must be accounted for by the extraordinary literary activity of the age; by this system which has thrown literature into the market; the system in which it happens that publishers are called pre-eminently "the trade." The literary activity is greater; the mass of publication doubtless is much greater, and so its usefulness is greater. The question to be decided is, whether it is greater in the same proportion.

suffers particularly in an analysis, but we attempt a brief sketch.

Mr. Marsh commenced by saying that in our country there is no appropriate place for merely literary men; that here the insound portion what it may, the average standard of litera ture has constantly risen, and has been well sustained in its advances ever since the revival of learning. And, as to the

> merits; as powerless for evil as for good. Mansa was led to a word or two, exquisitely chosen and hopeful in spirit, on the rich promises of the lite-rature of America for the investigation of the highest subjects

of speculation.

That investigation, and the method in which it must pursued, brings us at once to that axiom of Bacon, which Bacon perhaps did not fully develop, even in his own mind, that "knowledge is power." Of this axiom the full force is not felt by any one who does not analyze his meaning in progress of national crimes and glories—to consider the extent force excited objectively. For, to the student, the means by which he is to attain that force, the mental growth with which he seizes it, become a part of the very sim and object of his effort. And, although selfish men pervert their mental ac-quisition to the mere pursuit of wealth or a poor hope of popular applause, there is to them in it none of that power over self which subdues the passions to the will, and controls the will by reason. In the Greek the very word which express power is derived from roots which convey to it the idea of a state rather than an action; and even in the more gross Latin the same delicate distinction may be detected. The deviation here is the expression of a true conception. The highes come. And yet—it is of course—this conception of power loss not exclude the idea of action. The higher the inward state, the more vigorous and frequent its outward effort. He who knoweth all things is the Creator of all things. And it not obey mainly in the hope of a future reward; and we cannot think of the soldier as fighting merely in a studied expectation of renown. What those men are is the origin of what they do. The one worships—the other defends. One may

race the same law in morals, in the arts, or in religion. And here Mr. Marsu closed the train of close thought, which we have so inadequately followed, by the suggestion that, to men in the position of our men of letters, if any one study peculiarly recommends itself, that study is the pursuit of science—science as the knowledge of causative law; not the mere knowledge of facts, but the high speculative science which deduces a probable theory from few known facts, and is also ready to divine facts unobserved as necessarily resulting from theoretical law. The pursuit of such science is a most fitting occupation for men who find themselves, where our men of letters so ofter are, only at leisure for careful study when they retire from "disciple" was to make his choice of some special study ac-cording to his natural vocation, and not to undertake to learn all things. Knowledge had, to be sure, become a marketa- sical powers failing him; and, has his mind only been occupied by the cares of outward life, it begins to prey upon itself. Its buyers and sellers even styled themselves "the But he who has kept alive his interest in letters, or in a true extend and continue that interest. It has kept off the rust of which the most copies were sold, which else would have gathered on his faculties, and thus the perception, the most full appreciation of the beauties of Na-ture and of Art, seem to be its peculiar treasure; so that the

evening of the scolar is gilded with the noblest glow which lights up the horizon of his life.

With such a picture of the delights of the ripened years of the true scholar's life, Mr. Mansa ended.

The close of the address, nervously concise like every part of it, was peculiarly beautiful in conception and expression. As he closed, the audience signified their great pleasure by epeated bursts of the applause which had frequently inte

MONTGOMERY'S NEWLY-INVENTED STEAM-

FROM HUNT'S MERCHANTS' MAGAZINE.

We are indebted to the patentee for a copy of letters and ertificates approving the newly-invented steam-boiler, patented by JAMES MONTGOMERY, of Memphis, Tennessee. The advantages which Mr. M. expects to realize by his improvenents are as follows: 1. The reducing the quantity, and conequently the weight of water used in the boiler. 2. Preention of explosion. 3. The saving of at least one-third of the fuel. 4. The saving of one-half the space usually occupied by the best class of locomotives. The advantage to sea teamers resulting from the two last improvements will be readily understood and estimated by engineers and all persons who have turned their attention to the subject. The testimony of Professor James Renwick, of Columbia College, Willphysical condition of man and the relation of body to spirit LIAM BURDEN, steam-engine manufacturer, of Brooklyn, E. K. Collins, and others, is given in its favor. Professor is nearest to us easiest escapes our grasp. We cannot accurately measure a yard, although we calculate the distance of Saturn. Our knowledge seems to be universally proportioned ' must completely counteract the danger with which the use of steam is now liable; and, in addition, it promises, from the manner of its action, to render the duration of our boilers almost indefinite." Mr. Bunden says, "it will make more steam with less fuel than any other boiler now in use."

> In the California Star of the 5th of June is a thrilling acaount of the sufferings of the emigrant party in the mounteins last winter. It is from a journal kept by Capt. FALLON, who, with six others, went in search of the sufferers. have only room for the introductory paragraph of the Star :

> "The extracts which we give below are full of thrilling in terest. Mr Failon set out from the settlements in April last, with six others, to extend relief to the remaining sufferers of the emigration still within the mountains, and also to collect and secure the scattered property of both living and dead. He succeeded in reaching the cabins, and, with the exception Kiesburg, not a soul survived. They returned, bringing

> of Kiesburg, not a soul large packs of valuable property.
>
> With them this man and large packs of valuable property.
>
> Windows was found in truly a lamentable situation; "Kiesburg was found in truly a lamentable situation; a long subsistence upon the bodies of his deceased comrades had rendered him haggard and ferocious looking, and the insatiable appetite of the cannibal displayed itself on frequent occasions, even after animal meat had been placed before him. This foudness for human flesh he had suffered himself to acquire in preference to the beef or horse meat, of which he had mountains was far from justifiable, and a hidden transaction of guilt remains yet to be brought to light."

> Abvice of Counsel.-There is a well known custom pre vailing in our criminal courts of assigning counsel to such prisoners as have no one to defend them. On one occasion Court, finding a man accused of theft and without counsel. said to a lawyer who was present:
> "Mr. —, please to withdraw with the prisoner: confer with him, and then give him such counsel as may be best for

The lawyer and his client then withdrew, and in fifteen

wenty minutes the lawyer returned into Court. Where is the prisoner " naked the Court.

"He is gone, your honor," said the hopeful legal me to give him the best advice for his est; and, as he said he was guilty, I thought the best counTRAVELLING IN EUROPE.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE N. Y. COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER. Benne, July 14, 1847.

Travelling on the continent of Europe is different from what it is in America. On the whole I like it better. Since the introduction of ralroads it is much more pleasant than it was formerly, and much more is accomplished in half the time. France, Belgium, and Germany have their railroads in fine order. Switzerland, I believe, has only a few miles, nor can it be expected that through her mountain passes railroads will

I have often admired and spoken of the excellent manage ment of the English railroads, but the continental roads are better managed; they have better cars, much cheaper fares, and are, I conceive, much safer. The second class cars, after leaving Frankfort on the Maine, are superior to any o your first class, and quite equal to the first class in England. The only objection is that on some of the lines the passengers are locked in, which, to those who recollect the terrible event near Paris, causes unpleasant reflections.

very rich and costly manner, with tables, lounges, lookingroyal family, or perhaps some wealthy dowager, who is anxious to pass the time at her favorite game.

At every mile, and frequently at every half mile along the line of railroads we passed a policeman on duty. This man has a neat little cottage and garden close to the railway. His duty is to march to and from the next post or station and see that every obstruction is removed; and also to place a bar at every crossing to prevent the possibility of accident by persons attemptingt o cross the road. Whenever the cars appear in sight the bar is placed, and nothing can pass until after the cars have passed. These men have the uniform of the Government when the line is owned by the Government, or that of the company when it is a company's concern. In Belgium, and I think some parts of Prussia, the Government is the proprietor, and the price is low in proportion. The rule I am inmed is, that when the receipts reach a certain per centage on the cost the fare is reduced.

Along most of the line of railroads the magnetic telegrap wires are either put up or are ir. a state of forwardness. The appear to be much better constructed. I mean for durability than in America; nor are the wires placed so high from th ground. This, I suppose, is allowable from their greater safe-ty in this country, where the police have them always under their eye. I cannot believe they will be a source of profit to those who own them. The newspaper press on the continent will not use them. They care nothing about dispatch or ability to give the latest intelligence, if it is not given in the Lon-

don or Paris journals.

Since the introduction of railroads the papers are offered for sale in the streets or near the railroad depot. Indeed, the boys go one step further in Germany. They go round the public table, during dinner, and offer the papers for sale. They are generally followed by little girls, who bring bouquets of ers and offer them to each person

During the season for fruit the cars and carriages are sur rounded by girls offering fruit, nectarines, cherries, gooseber-ries, currants, &c., and in the wine countries this is offered t a very cheap rate.

After leaving the railroads the public conveyances are called digences in France and Germany, and in Switzerland schnell-ost. These have been so often described that they are generally known. They are heavy cumbrous machines, and car ry a large number of passengers. Yet, on the whole, I like them. They are generally drawn by five horses, and change at every post-house, which is the post-office. So far as my knowledge extends the Government has the supervision of all the public carriages, and the traveller secures his seat at the post-office, and is taken up and put down at the post-house.

The most pleasant mode of conveyance is the private carriage with post-horses, and the next best is to hire a carriage and pair of horses, which can be done for about twenty france per day; the only additional expense is a small fee per day to

he coachman, which in Germany is called "drink money." I have often heard it remarked that travelling on the conti ent is less expensive than in the United States. It is no The only thing cheaper is the public convey There is one item of expenditure which all conside an imposition—the charge for bedroom candles, which at this season of the year are very little used. The moment the traveller is shown into the room, at least two candles are lighted. and if they are not used five minutes he pays a franc each, (about nineteen cents.) Mr. H., of New York, entered his lighted, for which, had he not protested, he would have been

It is now the universal custom on the continent, as it is in England, to charge a certain sum per day for servants; this includes all attendance except the house porter, which is a eparate charge. On the route between Paris and Boulogne there is a por-

tion of the way travelled by diligence, and here are severa opposition lines, one of which belongs to an English company. This company runs over the road as rapidly as is done in any part of England. The French companies, determined not to be outdone by foreigners, have lighter diligences than formerly, and, with six excellent horses and short relays, they

keep up with the English line.

The "runners" for the large hotels at Boulogne exceed those we find in the United States. The latter, you know, are urgent in their solicitations on the spot. At Boulogne hey go further. About two miles from the city we were me by a messenger from each hotel, mounted on horseback, wh on ascending a hill rode by the side of the coach, presenting to each passenger a card of the hotel he represented. These cards are beautifully printed, and contain information generally useful to the traveller. These men meet the traveller a the coach or diligence office, take charge of his baggage, passport, &c., and, if he requires it, will be his guide place he may desire to visit.

MANNERS OF ENGLISH NOBILITY.

I have availed myself of the pleasure of looking at many palaces in England and on the continent, and also the resi-dences of many noted individuals. None have gratified me shire, and Haddon Hall, situated near the residence of th Duke. They are very different in character, but both have their excellences. The former shows the splendor of the present day; the latter what splendor was many centuries ago. Availing myself of a kind friend's offer, while on a visit to Sheffield, we went first to Haddon Hall, and passed about two

hours within its walls.

Haddon Hall is said to be the best specimen of baronial remains in the kingdom. It was built before the conquest, and yet so solid is the structure that very little outward decay is bserved. My friends were well known, and we had every opportunity to examine this ancient pile. Entering the portal, which is of oak, we proceeded through the court yard to large square, whence we entered the banqueting hall; and same oaken table where the barons entertained their guests, perhaps Queen Elizabeth among the number, we partook of a plentiful repast. On the very benches that were used on festal occasions we enjoyed the hospitality of our

In days long past the cause of temperance did not flourish. In this room, near one of the doors, is an iron fastening, large enough to admit the wrist, which was used for that purpose when any one of the guests was so rebellious as to re-fuse to drink his portion. Here he remained fastened to the wall until he complied with the customs of those drinking

The number of rooms I have forgotten, but some of them are very large, and at the present time are bung with tapestry room is 109 feet long and 18 feet wide. The view from this room is one of the best, and is said by some writer be the most beautiful in the Peak of Derbyshire.

Gilpin says that the most ancient part of the building is the old tower, and that it was built before the conquest; other portions of the hall were built subsequently, perhaps in the reign of King Stephen. Early in the reign of Richard 1st it was in the possession of one of the Vernons, and remained in that family four centuries, during which it was the seat of feudal splendor and rude but sumptuous hospitality. Sir George Vernon was "King of the Peak," and his wealth was unbounded. At his death it fell to his two daughters, Margaret and Dorothy; the latter married Sir John Manners, and is it came into the Rutland family. Some idea of the magnitude of the establishment may be formed when it is known that it maintained "upward of seven score servants." The glass in the chapel is of more modern painting, it having been done in 1422. The flooring in the large dining hall is said to have been made from a single tree of oak cut from the park. This room contains, among others, the portraits of Henry the Seventh and his Queen-the crest of Edward the Black Prince, the arms of the Vernon family, also the royal arms, under which is inscribed, "Dread God and honor the King."

time of Elizabeth. The gallery is one hundred and ten feet long and seventeen feet wide; the walls are of panelled oak, very richly carved; the ceilings were stuccoed and richly gilt, but age has much defaced them. The first ball in this room was opened by Queen Elizabeth.

from this we passed into the apartments that were occu-by Queen Elizabeth, and there saw the bed on which she slept; it is covered with hangings of embroidered velvet; and the counterpane is of white satin embroidered with gold and silver. The walls of this bedroom are covered with rich

dering over these celebrated relics of olden times, but we had yet to visit the splender of our modern days in looking at "Chatsworth." A very pleasant ride of some two miles brought us to the park of that elegant establishment, a palace

rought us to the park of that elegant establishment, a palace ar surpassing the city residence of England's Queen.

This, I believe, is acknowledged to be the most splendid nansion in England. It is in the Grecian style, of Portland tone; its front extends about seven hundred feet; the wincows are of plate glass, equal in size to many of the largest in Broadway, and most of the frame-work is richly gilded. The private entrance, which was built a short time before he visit of the present Queen, is an elegant arch of stone, ervant in livery made his appearance, and conducted us across on open quadrangular court into a spacious hall, paved with Italian marble, the walls being of the same rich material. Soon the housekeeper made her appearance, a very lady-like person, and by her we were conducted over this immense

The flight of steps which we ascended in proceeding from the hall to be grand staircase passes between walls of varie-gated alabater, and, being ornamented with gilt balustrades, has a magnificent effect. From the entrance-hall we passed through the picture-gallery, the door of which is of h polished oal, inlaid in the most beautiful manner. thousand paintings of the best masters enrich the gallery. I shall not attempt a description, for, were I able to write one, it would swell this letter to a greater length than your co-

The chapel's in keeping with the building. The panelwork is of cedr, and as we entered gave a most delightful fragance. Phewhole is richly ornamented. The ceiling and every part not otherwise decorated, are embellished by the pencils of Verio and Laguerre. The ornaments in wood are said to be the work of Gibbons ; the rich altar was sculptured by Cibber

The next roop looked at was the "Velvet Chamber," apopriated to Quen Victoria when she visited Chatsworth in with gold; the cuiling is of stucco-work, covered with gild-ing; the floor is olpolished inlaid oak; the paintings are very good, and the furniture of crimson and gold. In one corner

s an elegant rosewood piano, obtained for her Majesty's use. The next apartments were a suite of rooms, the walls of which are covered with richly-embossed leather, finely gift. In these were the pronation chairs of several of the former kings of England, which came into the possession of the Duke of Devonshire by his being the Lord Chamberlain at the time

The library is only excelled by one other in the kingdom. The rooms appropriated to sculpture contain some of the finest pieces of statuary in the world; the door cases and tables are alabaster from the Peak of Derbyshire. The rooms are so constructed that on any great occasion a

nite of apartments can be thrown open to the length of six The park, gardens, jets of water, fountains, &c. are on the

ame scale with the building. The "conservatory" is a glass structure containing seventy-eight thousand square feet of glass, and is kept warm by pipes equal to the length of six miles; it is three hundred and thirty feet long, one hundred and thirty feet wide, and sixty-five feet high. se" is filled with all the tropical trees which the wealth of the Duke has enabled him to obtain; and so anxious s he to excel all others that no price, however high, prevents his obtaining every thing that is made known to him worthy

The Duke has been visited by the Emperor of Russia and by other distinguished men, and by them his house and his grounds have been enriched with many valuable and costly

EMIGRATION TO LIBERIA.

BALTIMORE, SEPTEMBER 3, 1847. MESSES, EDITORS: The LIBERIA PACKET sailed on her cond voyage this morning at 12 o'clock. She carried out eighty emigrants, mostly from this State and Virginia. At 10 o'clock religious services were performed on board by the Rev. Mr. Payne, (a colored man,) the Pastor of the colored concourse of people, who appeared greatly interested. The packet has a full cargo of freight, and was not able to take all that was offered. She more than meets our most sanguine expectations. If no untoward event occurs between this and the close of her first year, the managers will be able to declare a very handsome dividend to the stockholders. The influence couraging. During the last forty-eight hours some twenty ersons in this city offered themselves as emigrants, of whose ntions nothing had been previously known.

We expect the packet to return in time to sail on her third oyage on the first day of January, 1848. Yours, very respectfully,

IMPORTANT INVENTION .- The grand desideratum of ap ying steam and water power to propel common stockingdooms, on which vast sums of money and much time have been unsuccessfully spent in England, has at length been discovered, and three common looms are now in successful operation in Portsmouth, (N. H.)

On Wednesday last one girl attended the three looms,

and, spending much of her time in sitting to watch the operation, she presented 23 pairs of stockings and 22 pairs of drawers as the result of her day's work. Twelve pairs of stockings is a girl's day's work on common hand-looms

The expense of the knitting by this machine on Wednes-day was less than a dollar, while the same work on the handoms would cost over five dollars. We learn that any hand-loom may be fitted for operation

power at an expense of thirty or forty dollars.

The inventor is Mr. John Pepper, a young man of abou years of age, son of Mr. Daniel Pepper of this town, a ocking-weaver .- New Hampshire Journal.

WONDERFUL FEAT .- A brick building at the corner Tremont and Bromfield streets, Boston, was moved eleven or twelve feet, on Saturday week, including the cellar and cellarvalls, upon a temporary railway, by means of jack-screws. building was estimated at two hundred tons in weight, but scarcely a jar was felt in the process of moving—not so much as the rolling of a barrel of flour upon the floor—and the contents of the grocery store, for which it was used, were not removed, but the ordinary business continued all the while without interruption. This is the first feat of the kind ever accomplished, and, as may be readily imagined, was a work much difficulty. The process was to first dig the new cellar and lay a foundation wall to correspond with the old one.

Upon this wall two iron bars were affixed, several inches apart, over which the building was to move on small iron Underneath the old wall a similar preparation was made. The difficulty of moving was made greater by the unevenness of the stones composing the wall, many of which e taken out, and their places substituted with others of a smooth surface. Six screws were used in the operation, which was done under the direction of Mr. James Brown, of

RAILROAD COLLISION .- The train of cars which left Spring field on Friday morning for New York, came into collision somewhere between that place and Hattford with the train from the latter place. The opposing engines were completely demolished. No lives lost, but several of the passengers ly demolished.

TURKISH CHILDREN .- The ceremony of naming Turkish children is a private one, says a correspondent of the London Herald, and takes place without the interference of the clergy. The patriorch of the family, be be the father, grandfather, or greatgrandfather, on the third day after the hirth of the child, receives it into his arms. Without form, nony, or even ablution, he repeats the rzan, or public call to prayers, in the right car of the infant, and in the whispers the name it is to bear. This occupies but two minutes, and no note is taken of it. The name is not subsequently changed, unless the child should be apparently pining case it is sometimes altered, from a superstitious notion that it is unsuitable to the individual, and a third modification is admitted when a gentleman enters the public service. To avoid under which is inscribed, "Dread God and honor the King."

The next was the "Gallery," which occupies nearly the whole south side of the building. This is in the style of the same original name; for instance, Fevzi Ahmed Pacha, Echt Ahmed Pacha, Izet Ahmed Pacha, &c.

The Nill took the Wisconsin's passengers on board, and towed were all Ahmed Pachas.

DO SNAKES HISS

FROM THE BUFFALO COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER. This has assumed the solemnity of a judicial inquiry Grave editors are at issue on the point. "When doctors disagree, who shall decide !" The surest mode of arriving at he fact would be the production of the animals themselves,

and provoking them to speech, if speak they can. But, alas our forum is a newspaper, and not a menagerie. Nought then remains but to hear the witnesses, and then decide. I have the market place, up a steep and rugged path, winding along tried the cause, in the attic, and on the following testimony have pronounced a judgment, which, like all just judgments, flowers and shrubs. The scene, when we arrived at the sumremains but to hear the witnesses, and then decide. I have

gar Errors.

That snakes do hiss is a belief almost universal among Christians. The denial of it has startled community as much, more, than would the assertion that a setting goose or stategander will not, when provoked.

Common people every where assert it-naturalists assert itavellers assert it-word definers assert it-and poets, from the beginning, have asserted it, and will maintain it to the end of time. None but editors and skeptics have ever de-

But call the witnesses, and let them be brief. Homer, and Virgil, and Ovid, it is said, all make sements iss. But they are all of the dark ages, and talk not English. One of them will do; so Homer and Virgil are dismissed the Court. Call Dryden, and swear him as an interpreter. He s rather a free translator, but will do for the nonce. What says Ovidius Naso of the Furies?

And tearest thou not to see the infernal bands, Their heads with snakes, with torches armed their hands, Full at thy face th' avenging brands to bear, And shake the serpents from their hissing hair

What a fine constellation of " eves in a fine phrenzy rolling! What a sweet Babel they would make of this grave Court, could they all give tongue. Turn them out, all but four or five, and keep that grave, majestical, sightless old man for

"I heard a hissing; there are serpents here !" The dragon is slain-but

"Wrath yet remains, tho' strength his fabric leaves, ant hiss the gasping mouth deceives

"Brennus, has thy holy hand
Safely brought the Druid wand,
And the potent adder-stone,
'Gendered 'fore the autumnal moon,
When in undulating twine,
There foaming snakes, prolific join,
When they hiss, and when they bear
Their wondrous egg aloot in air '"—[Mason.

Now, then, miraculous Seer, stand forth, and say wha chanced in Pandemonium, when Satan, returned from blasted Paradise, rehearsed his triumph to the "Stygian throng:

"He stood, expecting
Their universal shout and high applause
To fill his ear, when contrary he hears,
On all sides, from innumerable tongues,
A dismal, universal hiss, the sound Of public scorn. He wondered, but not long Of public scorn. He wondered, but not long Had leisure, wondering at himself now more, His visage drawn he felt toosharp and spare, His arms clung to his ribs, his legs entwining Each other, till supplanted down he fell:

A monstrous serpent on his belly prone.

* * He would have spoke,
But hiss for hiss returned with forked tongue To forked tongue, for now were all transformablike to servents, as accessories

Alike to serpents, as accessories
To his bold riot. Dreadful as the din of hissing through the hall."

Lead him reverently away! The Court declares it fully established that snakes do hiss, poetice.

Bring forth that man in the rusty suit. He looks like udent, and may possibly know something of the matter What say you of the Pythian Games?

"The songs which were sung were called the Pythia odes, and were divided into five parts, which contained a epresentation of the fight and victory of Apollo over Python.

Come to the point, if there be one: "The fifth was syringes, (we have no font of Greek type,) under the blows of Apollo."

These travellers lie so there is no crediting them. But you may call William Jackson, who dwelt for some years in Moocco; he looks respectable. What are you talking about, sir? "The El Effah of the Arabs, (or the Epheh of the Hea very handsome dividend to the stockholders. The influence brews.) They have a wide mouth, by which they inhale a which she is exerting upon the colored people is also very engreat quantity of air, and, when inflated therewith, they eject with such force as to be heard at a considerable dista Summon the gentlemen who know all things-the En-

> "All serpents breathe air. The larynx is too simple and membranaceous to admit of the existence of voice. A hiss ing sound, however, can be produced.' [New Edin. Enc. - Ophiology.

"Their hissing, in some species, is truly startling."

[Enc. Amer. - Serpents. "In comparing serpents as to their voices, some are found silent, some have a peculiar cry, but hissing is a sound which they most commonly send forth, either as a call to their kind threat to their enemies."-London Enc. -Serpents.

What says Noah Webster, who, in his great love for all m most truly merited?

" Hiss, n., the noise of a serpent, a goose, &c." I'll hear no more ; the testimony's closed. G. W. C.

The New York Commercial Advertiser, which recently arted the above question, has come to the conclusion, in view of the evidence it has since received in communications from nany quarters, that there is at least one kind of serpent that ses-namely, the adder, which flattens and swells its head or neck when irritated. 1

GEORGE J. J. BARBER, Esq. is the whole-hearted and beral-minded Whig who some time since presented the edior of the Cortland Whig with a new set of types for his tor of the Cortland Whig with a new set of types for his paper. After repeated solicitations from the Whigs of Cortland, the Editor has, without Mr. B.'s consent, given his with last year's receipts. name to the public. Now that it is known, we hope the Whig press will pass it round as worthy of "everlasting repembrance."-Syracuse Journal.

It is said that the Syracuse Railroad promptly paid \$700 to the passengers whose baggage was burnt on the cars the other night. One passenger is said to claim several thousand dollars for bills burnt in his trunk. [Albany Evening Journal of Wednesday.

Works are in progress for establishing the Electric Telegraph from Montreal to Quebec. The Quebec Gazette remarks that the posts for it are already placed along St. Paul treet, in that city. Works are also in progress for extending the telegraph from Quebec to Halifax.

SAD AFFAIR AT STAMFORD, CONN .- At 10 o'clock donday morning the boiler of the "extract works" of "the stamford Manufacturing Company," (Messrs. Sandford's,) at the Cove, blew up, destroying the brick building which anclosed it, and throwing fragments in every direction. Several workmen were about the building at the moment, of whom four were killed and three more wounded.

The killed are Mr. Downing and Mr. Aaron Meaker, who were painting the building; Wm. Weed, of Darien, and Mr. Taylor. The boiler and the whole establishment were Some of the fragments were thrown to a great distance, injuring other buildings, but no persons were hurt except the workmen about the building destroyed.

STEAMBOAT COLLISION -A dreadful collision occurred on Lake Erie, on Monday night last, between the large and powerful steamboats Nill and Wisconsin. The latter was totally disabled, and the Nill had a hole as large as a hogshead stove d perishing, as happens frequently in teething time. In this in her bows. The force of the concussion can be judged of from the fact that the massive wrought iron shaft of the Wisconsin, seventeen inches in diameter, was so badly bent as to

RECENT VISIT TO PITCAIRN'S ISLAND.

Her Majesty's brig Spy arrived off this island on the 26th of February, and was boarded by George Adams and some more natives shortly after she hove to. George Adams is the son of the celebrated John Adams, the father of the colony, the mutineer of the Bounty. Went ashore in cutter, piloted by George Adams. Landing place a very small sandy beach, with many rocks, and in the least breeze impracticable. We were met on the beach by some of the natives, who cordially welcomed us to Pitcairn's Island, and showed us the way to is final—that is, at the end of the case. But I do not flatter myself it will end the controversy.

That snakes hiss is not put down by that keen detector of popular mistakes, Sir Thos. Browne, among his "Vul
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of popular mistakes, Sir Thos. Browne, amon by the spreading branches of cocoa-nut trees, to meet the strangers, all of them being dressed in their gayest. Their welcome was warm, all of them advancing and shaking us by the hand, and addressing us in perfectly good English. We were extremely pleased by their quiet and decorous behavior. As soon as we had made acquaintance with them all, we were led through gently winding paths to the principal village, where the court-house and church stands, as there were one or two slight disagreements about land, which they wished to be brought before Lieutenant Wooldridge, commander of the Spy, and who very speedily disposed of them without their naving evinced, cidra during the incontiguous or afterwards, the least feeling of discontent or displeasure. The church is a neat building, well arranged, with a pulpit and benches, and is used as well for a court-house as a church. by the hand, and addressing us in perfectly good English.

and benches, and is used as well for a court-house as a church.

Mr. Nopps, the schoolmaster, performs the various offices.

We were shown the old gun belonging to the Bounty, that had been under water for fifty-nine years, and which was now lying near the court-house. We visited old Adams's house lying near the court-house. We visited old Adams's house and grave, the last of which is situated in a beautiful spot next to his wife's grave, and kept in trim order.

After rambling about and visiting one or two inhabitants who were not well, (one of whom had wounded himself with his gun while out shooting goats a short time before we arrived, but was doing well,) we returned to dinner, which had been prepared for us at McCoy's house, and consisted of pork, yam, and sweet potatoes. Each family on the island take it in turn to entertain strangers when they arrive, and never accept any reward. Their food is principally vegetables, of which they have almost every kind, and twice a week either meat or fish; but there is difficulty in getting the latter, as the fishing ground is bad and water very deep. The animals on the island are goats, (which are wild,) pigs, and fowls. Their houses are the perfection of cleanliness and good order, and each person has his plot of ground to cultivate. Their form of government is simple: they elect a magistrate every twelve months, upon which occasion every man and woman above eighteen is entitled to a vote, and if married before that age they are allowed a vote in consequence. The magistrate in turn to entertain strangers when they arrive, and never acabove eighteen is entitled to a vote, and it married before manage they are allowed a vote in consequence. The magistrate then chooses an assistant, and the remainder of the people choose again another, who acts as a sort of check, which is, indeed, little wanted, for there is no place in the world where such perfect unanimity and good feeling exist as in this happy ty-four, but the island can support many more, and they increase but slowly. The island itself is only four miles and a half in circumference. We heard with pleasure that, though several whalers touched there, yet in no instance had any impropriety been committed. Forty-six whalers, mostly American, had called during the year 1846. They all appeared to talk of Adams with the greatest respect, and seemed to have a strong feeling of the crime that their ancestors committed in mutinying. They talked in the most affectionate and loyal way of "our Queen," and appeared exceedingly proud of being English but complained that they were so neglected being English, but complained that they were so neglected, the Spy having been the first man-of-war which had visited them for more than three years. They, however, were quite satisfied when told that the exigencies of the service had lately prevented their being visited so often. They begged earnestly for a visit by a man-of-war as often as she could be spared from other duties; but; as George Adams remarked, they "could not complain, as the Government had already been kinder to them than they deserved."

Before our leaving, the women came after us with little resents and keepsakes, such as locks of hair, whales' teeth, nd other little cu and other little curiosities, refusing to be rewarded in any way. We took some of their names down, as they struck us as being as pretty as the fair owners themselves—Marian, Louisa, Emily were among the prettiest. Marian Christian was a beautiful girl, with quite a Grecian cast of countenance, and very kindly allowed her likeness to be taken by one of our party. Their way of dressing the hair odd, it being rolled up in a conical fashion at the back of the head. Their dress, when they do not not wear the European one, is simple, consisting of only a sort of skirt of some dark color, with the upper short petticoat of white stuff, and a handkerchief tied eatables, which was obliged to lie off on account of the increasing surf, and it being nearly sunset, we were obliged to tear ourselves very unwillingly from this enchanted island, though all came round to beg us not to go, but to stop one night—only one—with them, and, finding they could not succeed, accompanied us down to the beach, where we em-barked in canoes to take us off through the rollers to the cutter. They embraced us all most affectionately, asking us to write and remember them to their friends in England, particularly to Captain Hunt, formerly of the Basilisk, whom they seemed to have a vivid recollection of. The embarkation in the cutter was accomplished safely, and we gave them three hearty cheers, and, accompanied by George Adams and Christian, we got on board the Spy; and, after remaining a short time with us, and being very much delighted with a couple of rockets that were fired, they bade us good-bye when we filled and made sail for Valparaiso — Naval and Military Gazette.

IMPORTANT ABOLITION MOVEMENT.-Letters received at New York by the Caledonia from unquestionable sources, announce that on the 28th of July last the King of Denmark issued a decree declaring that all persons who should thereafter ing words, sought to save all from a perdition very many of be born in his dominions should be BORN FREE, and that all persons in servitude in his dominions on the 28th of July last, and remaining so on the 28th of July, 1859, shall then be absolutely free, without compensation to the owners.

In the negotiation with the colonists which preceded the ssuing of this decree, he offered them the alternative of three years with a compensation of \$60 per head for each slave, or twelve years without any compensation, and they chose the Denmark has three small islands in the West Indies, viz.

St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John. St. Croix contains about 30,000 slaves. St. Thomas and St. John perhaps 5,000 more-Journal of Commerce. FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY .- The total receipts of

BAGGAGE CAR DESTROYED BY FIRE.—The baggage car

attached to the passenger train which left Syracuse on Mon-day morning was discovered to be on fire when about six miles east of that place. Before the train could be stopped the flames had made such progress that it was impossible to save the car or any portion of its contents, which numbered about twenty packages and trunks, belonging to the passengers. The fire is supposed to have originated from a spark thrown from the smoke-pipe of the locomotive.

THE VAMPIRE BAT OF BRAZIL .- There is one enemy who sometimes approaches even a hammock, and takes a tribute from the unconscious sleeper; and that is the Vampire Bat. They are common enough any where, but about the mill (near Para) they seem to have concentrated in disproportionate num-ber. During the day they are sleeping in the tiles of the roof; but no sooner has the declining sun unloosed the eve than they may be seen issuing in long black streams. Usually we avoided all their intimacies by closing the shutters at sunset; but occasionally some of them would find entrance all the doughty arms within our reach, nor stopped the slaugh ter until every presumptuous intruder had bit the dust; or, less metaphorically, had sprawled upon the floor. Several thus captured measured each upwards of two feet across the wings; but most were smaller. Of their fondness for human blood, and especially that particular portion which constitutes the *unimus* of the great toe, from personal experience I am unable to vouch ; but every one in the country it, and a number of gentlemen at different times assured us it, and a number of gentiemen at different times assured us that they themselves had been phlebotomized in that manner, nor knew of the operation until a bloody hammock offered indubitable evidence. They spoke of it as a slight affair; and probably the little blood that is extracted is rarely an injury. If the foot is covered there is no danger, or if a light is kept burning in the room; and often we have slept unharmed, thus guarded, when bats were flitting about and squeaking the night long. Cattle and horses are not so easily pr a wound once made, the bat returns to it every night until proper precautions are taken, or the animal is killed by the loss of blood .- Edwards's Voyage up the River Amazon.